



MARCH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1959.



THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MARCH

Public Health Committee

Chairman - H. A. Orbell Esq.

Messrs. Councillors J. S. Collingwood
T. H. Ellingham
A. J. Goss
H. W. Papworth
M. Robinson
E. Smith

Medical Officer of Health

P. Herdman, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Town Hall, March. Telephone: March 2331.

Public Health Inspector

H. Burton, M.A.P.H.I.

Clerical Staff

Miss. J. Band.

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MARCH

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1959

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you the report for the year 1959 together with a report from the Public Health Inspector. In doing so I would point out that it is a summary of the year's work during Dr. Herdman's term of office as Medical Officer of Health. Dr. Herdman resigned at the end of 1959 and I am sure you would wish me to record your appreciation for her services during the last $2\frac{1}{2}$ years.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. C. BURNS.

Medical Officer of Health.

General Statistics

Area in acres.	19,786
Population (Registrar General's Estimate for 1959)	13,200
Number of inhabited houses	4,669
Number of houses owned by the Council	854
Rateable Value	£152,142
Amount represented by ld. rate (1958/59)	£581. 1. 8d

The area of the Urban District remained unchanged at 19,786 acres and the estimated population decreased by 10 to 13,200. The main employment is either industrial, the large railway marshalling yards being situated within the district boundary, or agricultural, the surrounding farm land being rich and fertile.

Vital Statistics

Live Births

Number	{ Male 103 }	Total	.	212
	{ Female 109 }			
Rate per 1,000 population	.	.	.	16.06
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births	.	.	.	1.41

Stillbirths

Number	{ Male 3 }	Total	.	8
	{ Female 5 }			
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	.	.	.	36.36
Total Live and Stillbirths	{ Male 106 }	Total	.	220
	{ Female 114 }			
Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)				
	{ Male 2 }	Total	.	2
	{ Female - }			

Infant Mortality Rates

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	.	9.43
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate		
live births	.	9.56
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate		
live births	.	Nil
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000		
total live births)	.	9.43
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per		
1,000 total live births)	.	9.43
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1		
week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	.	45.45

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Number of deaths	.	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	.	Nil
Death Rate per 1,000 population	.	10.98

<u>Cause of Death</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	2	6
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	1	5
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	4	4
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	10	8	18
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	12	19
Coronary disease, angina	16	15	31
Other heart diseases	11	12	23
Other circulatory diseases	1	2	3
Influenza	-	1	1
Pneumonia	5	4	9
Bronchitis	5	2	7
Hyperplasia of prostate	3	-	3
Congenital malformations	1	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	7	4	11
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1
All other accidents	-	1	1
Suicide	1	-	1
	76	69	145

The following table gives the percentage of deaths in the principal age groups.

Under 1 year	2.07
1 - 5 years	-
6 - 15 years	0.69
16 - 65 years	22.76
66 and over	74.48
	100.00%

Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases

The following infectious diseases were notified during the year.

Acute Primary Pneumonia	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	3
Measles	231
Erysipelas	5
Scarlet Fever	13
Tuberculosis - Pulmonary	3
Sonne Dysentery	1
	257

Food Hygiene

The Public Health Inspector's report contains the necessary comments on this subject.

Food Poisoning

No case of food poisoning was reported during 1959.

National Assistance Act

No action was taken under the above Act during 1959.

Factories Act, 1937 - 1959

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1959 FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL OF MARCH IN THE COUNTY OF THE ISLE OF ELY.

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration
of the Factories Act, 1937

PART I OF THE ACT

1 - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	4			
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	46	10		
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	1			
Total	51	10	-	-

2 - Cases in which DEFECTS were found

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			By H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)					
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)				NIL	
(a) Insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or defective					
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)					
Total					

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110(1)(c)	Section 110		Section 111		
		No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing) Making apparel) etc.,						
Cleaning and Washing						
Household linen						
Lace, lace curtains and nets						
Curtains and furniture hangings						
Furniture and upholstery						
Electro-plate						
File making				NJI		
Brass and brass articles						
Fur pulling						
Iron and steel cables & chains						
Iron and Steel anchors and grapnels						
Cart gear						
Locks, latches and keys						
Umbrellas etc.						
Artificial flowers						
Nets, other than wire nets						
Tents						
Sacks						
Racquet and tennis balls						
Paper bags						

PART VIII OF THE ACT (CONTD.)

OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper						
Brush making						
Pea picking						
Feather sorting						
Carding, etc. of buttons etc			NIL			
Stuffed toys						
Basket making						
Chocolates & sweetmeats						
Cosaques, Christmas stockings etc.						
Textile weaving						
Lampshades						
TOTAL						

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MARCH

Public Health Inspector's Report for the year 1959

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following are details of visits, interviews, inspections and re-inspections carried out in 1959.

Public Health Act.	Nuisances)								
Housing Act.	Disrepair)	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	197
Ashes Accommodation	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Accumulations	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5
Animals or Birds.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	11
Bakehouses	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	6
Cellars - flooding	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Cesspools	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	8
Common Lodging House	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	12
Clean Air	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	15
Dairies	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	34
Drainage	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	82
Food Hygiene	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	136
Fried Fish Shops and Stalls	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	48
Factories	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4
Food Preparing Premises	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	28
General Food Premises.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	8
Ice Cream Premises	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	30
Infectious Diseases	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	14
Interviews	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	279
Knackers Yard	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	22
Moveable Dwellings	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	20
Meat Shops	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	6
Miscellaneous	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	21
Pet Animals Act	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4
Rats and Mice (including sewers)	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	52
Piggeries	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Slaughterhouses	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	754
Shops Act	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	8
Sanitary Accommodation	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	10
Vermin.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	43
Water Supplies	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2

1,863

The following tables show defects found and remedied during the year by action under Public Health and Housing Acts.

	<u>Defects found</u>	<u>Defects remedied</u>	<u>Outstanding at the end of 1959</u>
<u>Drains</u>			
Blocked drains	4	4	-
Trapped drain	1	1	-
Broken inspection cover	1	1	-
<u>Verminous Infestation</u>			
Rats	1	1	-
Cockroaches	2	2	-
C/fd.	9	9	-

	<u>Defects found</u>	<u>Defects remedied</u>	<u>Outstanding at the end of 1959</u>
B/fd.	9	9	-
<u>Housing Defects</u>			
Defective stove	1	1	-
" W.C.	3	3	-
Dustbin	1	1	-
Accumulations	2	2	-
Smoke nuisance	1	-	1
Name and Address on stall	1	1	-
	18	17	1

Table of Notices served during 1959

	<u>Served during 1959</u>	<u>Complied with by 31.12.59</u>
<u>Public Health and Housing Acts</u>		
Verbal	11	11
Letter	2	2
<u>Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949</u>		
Verbal	3	3
<u>Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955</u>		
Verbal	1	1
<u>Clean Air Act, 1956</u>		
Verbal	1	-
	18	17

HOUSING

It is interesting to note that during 1959 the Council cancelled one Closing Order, the dwelling having been made fit. Two Demolition Orders and ten Closing Orders were made. Twenty-eight houses were demolished which included some Demolition Orders made during 1958. Thirteen families were re-housed by the Council and two families re-housed themselves during the year. Twenty-five Closing Orders were made into Demolition Orders.

Seven applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received during 1959. Four of these were issued and one refused. Undertakings from owners to carry out work were received from the remaining two.

DRAINAGE

The subsidiary sewers were completed by the end of 1959 and it is hoped that the encouraging start which has been made on the conversion of vaults and pail closets will be continued.

WATER SUPPLY

Extensions to the water mains were completed during 1959 and where mains have been laid many new connections have been made to properties.

The following is the information requested by the Ministry:-

- (1) Whether the water supply of the area and of its parts has been satisfactory in quality and quantity. - Yes.
- (2) Where there is a piped supply, whether bacteriological examinations have been made of the raw water, and the results of any analysis. - No samples were taken during the year, but the water is known to be examined at regular intervals by the Water Board.
- (3) The position as to contamination by lead. - The water is hard and has no plumbo solvent action.
- (4) Action as to contamination. - There has been no evidence of contamination during the year.
- (5) Particulars of the proportion of dwelling houses and the proportion of population supplied from the public water mains. - (a) direct to house - 88%. (b) by means of stand pipes - 10%.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

At the end of the year 16 licences had been issued for moveable dwellings. Each site is visited prior to a licence being issued initially and advice given where difficulties arise, particularly in relation to drainage arrangements.

RAG FLOCK ACT, 1951

Under the above Act, which is enforced by the Council, one registration has been approved, but so far no samples have been taken.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

At present 4 premises are registered under the above Act and these are subject to inspection by the R.S.P.C.A. and myself.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

The number of animals killed during the year at the three slaughterhouses is as follows:- 9 cows, 8 calves, 766 other bovines, 1262 sheep, 3601 pigs and 11 goats giving a total of 5657, which was slightly below the 1958 total of 6264. In order to inspect these animals a total of 754 visits was required to the three slaughterhouses and this figure includes 96 evening and week-end visits.

Mention must be made here of the consideration received from the slaughtermen and butchers whose co-operation does facilitate the easier working of a system of meat inspection.

Twenty-three slaughterman's licences were issued during 1959.

Condemnations include the following whole carcasses:- 3 beasts, 1 sheep, 1 cow and 13 pigs - total 18 which, together with a quantity of offal and parts of carcasses brings the total weight of meat and offal condemned up to 3 tons 9 cwt. 13 lbs which is an increase on the 1958 figure when the total was 2 tons 9 qrs. 3 lbs.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned
from 1st January, 1959 to 31st December, 1959

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	766	9	8	1262	3601	-
Number inspected	766	9	8	1262	3601	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned,	1	1	-	1	13	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	42	3	-	2	22	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis.	5.61	44.44	-	0.23	0.96	-
<u>Tuberculosis Only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned,	2	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	36	-	-	-	49	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	4.96	-	-	-	1.36	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	3	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration.	3	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-

OTHER FOODS

Inspections were made during the year of stocks of other food stuffs and the following were condemned as unfit for human consumption:-

(1) <u>Miscellaneous</u>	<u>lbs.</u>	<u>ozs.</u>
Smoked haddock	7	-
Cheese	10	8
Part top piece	78	-
	95	8

(2) <u>Tinned Goods</u>	<u>No. of tins</u>	<u>lbs.</u>	<u>ozs.</u>
Chopped pork	2	16	-
Corned beef	6	8	4
Luncheon meat	8	9	4
Minced beef loaf	6	4	8
Ham	13	39	-
Baked beans	8	8	-
Tomatoes	10	11	6
Rice puddings	2	1	15
Fruit	11	13	6½
Milk	3	5	15
	69	117	10½

All the unsound food was voluntarily surrendered and in no case was seizure under the Food and Drugs Act required.

Under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949, the Council issued 5 Dealer's Licences for Tuberculin Tested Milk, 6 Dealer's Licences for Pasteurised Milk, 5 Dealer's Licences for Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk and 6 Dealer's Licences for Sterilised Milk.

The following samples were taken giving the results as shown:-

Pasteurised Milk

No. of samples taken	Satisfied Methylene Blue Test	Satisfied Phosphatase Test	Failed both tests
20	16	20	-

The Methylene Blue Test was not carried out on 4 of the above samples because the atmospheric shade temperature was over 65°F.

Tuberculin Tested Milk

No. of samples taken	Satisfied Methylene Blue Test	Failed Test
5	5	-

Six samples of Sterilised Milk were taken, all six satisfied the Turbidity Test.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the County Council are also known to take samples.

Churn Rinses

During 1959, 30 samples of Churn Rinses have been submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service, Cambridge. The following are the results:-

No. of samples taken	Satisfactory	Fairly Satisfactory	Un- satisfactory
30	13	5	12

The Minister requests that reports of previous years should be amplified to include the following information:-

- (1) the number, if available, of food premises in the area by type of business:

Green grocery	11
Grocery	28
Butchers	19
Fish shops	12
Bakehouses	5
Confectionery	17
Cafes & Restaurants	5
Mineral Water Premises	1

98

In addition there are some 42 licensed premises including clubs.

- (2) the number of food premises by type registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, or under Local Acts, and the number of dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Premises registered for the sale of ice cream -	37
Premises registered for the preparation of meat pies and sausages -	19
Premises registered for the sale of fish and chips -	11
See page 13 for Milk Licences issued.	

- (3) the number of inspections of registered food premises with informative comment as necessary.

Inspections of registered food premises and other food shops generally (including slaughterhouses) are shown on page 9.

- (4) any new educational activity (e.g. inauguration of clean food guilds or lectures on food hygiene) and the progress of established educational activity.

No clean food guilds have been established.

- (5) the method of disposal of condemned food.

Where condemnation certificates are issued for tinned food etc., the food is collected and disposed of by the Council. Condemned meat at the slaughterhouses is collected by contractors for processing.

- (6) where special examination of a stock or of a consignment of food has been necessary, the total quantity as well as the quantity condemned.

The lists on page 13 show the total weight of food condemned.

- (7) reference to the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment etc.,) Regulations, 1947-1952.

Twenty-five samples of ice cream were taken during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service, Cambridge. The provisional grading of samples was as follows:-

Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Total
24	1	-	-	25

It will be observed that 96% of these samples were classified Grade 1. At the end of the year 37 shops were registered for the sale of ice cream. There is one manufacturer in the area.

No samples of iced lollies were taken during 1959.

- (8) reference to the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955-56.

Some 145 food premises (including shops, slaughterhouses and licensed premises) were inspected during 1959 for compliance with the above Regulations.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

Four smoke observations have been taken under the Clean Air Act and in each case these observations were satisfactory.

One installation has also been approved under the Act.

RATS AND MICE

The refuse dumps are treated regularly and the sewers have been dealt with in accordance with the recommendations laid down by the Ministry. Infestation in the sewers is almost negligible and it has been intimated by letter that test baiting need not be carried out quite so frequently in the future.

In conclusion, I should like to take the opportunity of thanking the Members of the Council and my colleagues on the Staff for their helpful co-operation.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. BURTON.

Public Health Inspector.

21st June, 1960.

